

Contact Melanie Stewart at 417-967-2028 ext 3

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES GRANT TO THE CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE**

Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson was joined by Gregory Branum, State Director, USDA, Rural Development in presenting a Mock Check to the City of Summersville for \$26,570 on August 28, 2006. The presentation was held at the Summersville City Hall. The Community Facility Grant was used to buy a city police car. The additional resources will aid the city police to improve protection for all residents of the community.

"I am very pleased to announce that Summersville will be receiving this grant," said U.S. Sen. Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee. "Our law enforcement officers should have the best equipment

available to help protect our communities. This additional police car will increase patrolling and response time in the event of an emergency. By making these funds available, we are taking the necessary steps to improve safety in the community."

"Our first responders have an enormous responsibility to the community, but they are also often strapped for funds. This grant from USDA Rural Development is an important opportunity that helps the Summersville police department and extends to benefit the entire area through better public safety. I look forward to future opportunities to work with Rural Development and our Missouri Senators, Kit Bond and Jim Talent, to find ways to preserve and improve our rural quality of life," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The Summersville Police Department greatly appreciates the work done by USDA Rural Development in obtaining the grant. "The grant made it possible to obtain the vehicle that we probably would not have been able to obtain on our own," Chief of Police, Thad Wheeler said, "we would like to extend a special thanks to Robert Strickland of USDA and Sharon Vaughn, our grant writer in helping this get done."

Greg Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, said, "Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities." Branum added that special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community."

Additional information on this project or other USDA Rural Development programs is available by visiting the agency website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or by contacting Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager, 6726B South Highway 63, Houston MO, 65483, by calling 417-967-2028 extension 3, or by email to [robert.strickland@mo.usda.gov](mailto:robert.strickland@mo.usda.gov).



Pictured left to right: Jerry Finley, USDA Rural Development Area Director, Springfield; Greg Branum, USDA Rural Development State Director, Columbia; Jo Ann Emerson, U. S. Representative, 8th District; Robert Strickland, USDA Rural Development Rural Development Manager, Houston; Thad Wheeler, Chief, Summersville Police Department; Ron Harper, Mayor, City of Summersville; Don Wells, Missouri State Representative, 147th District; Mike Jackson, Summersville City Council

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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